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Re Box No. V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement.

1. PRIOR ART**1.1 Reference is made to the following documents:**

D1: DE 102 11 461 C1 (DAIMLERCHRYSLER AG) July 31, 2003 mentioned in the application.

D2: US 6 644 055 B2 (OHTA ET AL) November 11, 2003

2. INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

2.1 The present application does not fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of **Claim 1** is not novel with regard to Article 33(2).

2.2 The document **D1** is viewed as the closest prior art compared with the subject matter of claim 1. It discloses (the references in brackets relate to this document): *a method for the automatic starting and stopping of an internal combustion engine (2) of a motor vehicle by means of a start-stop device (16), by means of which the internal combustion engine (2), having been started by a person, is switched off automatically depending on multiple stop conditions, wherein one of the stop conditions is the release of the stop mode of an air-conditioning device (22) depending among other things on a temperature (48) prevailing in the interior (32) of the motor vehicle and a further stop condition is the expiration of a defined variable time period,*

2.3 The subject matter of the claim thus appears to differ from the known *method*, in that *the time period depends on the temperature difference between the temperature prevailing in the interior and the target temperature desired by the driver*. Since the internal combustion engine remains running until *the temperature in the interior of the motor vehicle has reached a specific value*, this means that *the internal combustion engine can only be switched off when the specific time period required to achieve this temperature has elapsed* (see paragraphs [0006], [0010] and [0032]).

2.4 The *stop condition* proposed in claim 1 of the present application can thus not be regarded as novel (Article 33(3) PCT).

3. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2, 6-13

Claims 2, 6-13 do not contain any features, which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they relate, fulfill the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and/or inventive step.

4. INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

4.1 This application concerns the field of automotive engineering, which clearly has an industrial applicability.